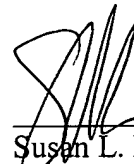


If the Examiner believes there are any further matters which need to be discussed in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0902 (76867/20092).

Respectfully Submitted,
TUCKER ELLIS & WEST LLP

Date: 3/22/04



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: 3-22-2004



Name: Valerie A. Salvino